

Weighting factors for watershed assessment criteria

Evaluation Criteria and Associated Weighting toward Water Resources

Evaluation Criteria	Water Resource Weighting	Justification
Aquifer Systems	5	High influence on water resources
Streams	5	High influence on water resources
Native Plants	2	Recharge occurs in forested watersheds whether native or exotic
Invasive Plants	4	Miconia infestation leads to erosion
Feral Animals	4	Over-population leads to erosion
Erosion	4	Recharge is minimal and runoff is polluted
Historic and Cultural Value	2	Limited significance to water supply
Land Use Designation	3	Conservation Districts have higher weighting
Fire Rating	3	Dry areas susceptible to fires leads to erosion
Partnerships and Community Involvement programs	5	If partnerships exist in significant watersheds

The table is not a complete analysis but is intended to illustrate a prioritization methodology

The weighting factors are based on a 5-point maximum scale for each criterion (5- Very Significant, 4- Significant, 3- Average Significance, 2- Below Average Significance, and 1- Very little Significance). Each watershed's ranking is then calculated by summing its total score in relation to the criteria. The watersheds with the highest score are ranked first and the remaining watersheds follow accordingly.